(b) if so, what is the total amount of loans so written-off; and

(c) what are the reasons for writing off these loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government had taken a decision that the outstanding balance as on 1-4-1985 of all types of rehabilitation loans sanctioned up 31.3.74 and loans to State Governments for relending to displaced persons/repatriates etc. sanctioned during 1.4.74 to 31.3.84 would be written off.

(b) As on 31.3.1987 outstanding loans amounting to Rs. 130.80 crores have been written off.

(c) Government of India had been receiving representations from time to time that the refugees/repatriates were not able to repay the loans as per the terms of the sanctions. Taking a sympathetic view, it was felt that the refugees and repatriates would probably be able to build up better economic base for themselves if they were relieved of the loan burden altogether.

Arrest of a Pakistani spy by BSF

1569. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani spy was recently apprehended by the Border Security Force in the Ferozepuur area in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any investigation about his links in the country; and

(c) whether any other persons have been identified for being in contact with him and helping him in his spying activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) According to information available, one Pak national and one Indian national were apprehended by the BSF in February, 1987 in Ferozepuur district of Punjab. A case under the Official Secrets Act has been registered.

Transfer of high technology from the United States

1570. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any formal agreement or understanding has been reached with the US Government for the transfer of high technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Yes, Sir.

(b) An Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding on Technology Transfer and its implementation procedures were signed in November, 1984 and May, 1985 respectively to facilitate trade and collaboration in advanced technology between the two countries.

Export to the USA

1571. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the goods exported to the United States during 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby and the efforts being made by the Government of India to increase exports to the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) and (b) The major items exported to USA during 1984-85 and 1985-86 are: diamonds, readymade garments and other textiles, petroleum products, engineering products, leather and its products, carpets and drugs and agricultural products such as cashewnuts, spices and marine products.

The foreign exchange earned during 1984-85 and 1985-86 by non-oil exports to USA are as follows:

(Value : Rs. crores)

Year	Export to USA
1984-85	1765.83
1985-86*	1994.48

*Figures are provisional and subject to revision.

A series of initiatives which have been taken to promote our exports of various products would assist our exports to USA also. With particular reference to the USA, a number of steps have been taken to increase exports which include market surveys, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, buyer-seller meets and special publicity programmes.

Consumer Price Index numbers

1572. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what were the Consumer Price Index numbers as at the end of December, 1984, December 1985 and December, 1986;

(b) whether it is rising and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what items are being taken into account to determine the price index and since when;

(d) whether Government propose to consider more items including control rate of rent for housing which are also essential in determining the Consumer Price Index; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Consumer Price Index numbers for industrial workers for the month of December for the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 on base 1960=100 are given below:

Year	Index for December
1984	588
1985	630
1986	688

(b) A rising trend has been observed in the index. It is mainly due to increase in prices of different items, seasonal fluctuations, varying supply of ration items etc.

(c) A list of items taken into account to determine the all-India consumer price index for industrial workers on base 1960=100 is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 79].

(d) and (e) In the proposed new series on base 1982, a number of new items are being included as a result of change in consumption pattern revealed by 1981-82 survey. Hoousing is one of the items taken into account under 1960 as well as proposed 1982 series.

Prisoners of Operation Blue Star

1573. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Amnesty International has asked the